Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows (the changes are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underlining for added matter). A complete listing of the claims is set out below with proper claim identifiers.

1. (Original) A method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10}

which comprises washing crystals and/or oil of reduced coenzyme Q_{10} with a water-soluble organic solvent or a mixed solvent composed of a water-soluble organic solvent and water to thereby remove a water-soluble impurity from the crystals and/or oil of reduced coenzyme Q_{10}.

2. (Original) The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to Claim 1,

wherein the washing of the crystals and/or oil of reduced coenzyme Q_{10} is carried out in a state of dispersion of the crystals and/or oil of reduced coenzyme Q_{10} in the water-soluble organic solvent or the mixed solvent composed of the water-soluble organic solvent and water.

3. (Original) The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to Claim 2,

wherein the dispersion is caused in a state of forced flowing.

4. (Currently Amended)The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~Claim 1,

wherein the water-soluble organic solvent comprises at least one species selected from among alcohols, ketones, ethers, and nitriles.

5. (Original) The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to Claim 4,

wherein the water-soluble organic solvent is ethanol.

6. (Currently Amended)The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~Claim 1,

wherein the washing is carried out with a mixed solvent composed of an organic solvent and water.

7. (Original) The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to Claim 6,

wherein the washing is carried out with a mixed solvent having a water-soluble organic solvent content of not less than 5 w/w%.

8. (Currently Amended)The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 7~~Claim 1,

wherein the water-soluble impurity is a reducing agent used for converting oxidized coenzyme Q_{10} into reduced coenzyme Q_{10} and/or an impurity derived from a reducing agent.

9. (Original) The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to Claim 8,

wherein the reducing agent and/or the impurity derived from a reducing agent are/is hyposulfurous acid or a salt thereof and/or an impurity derived from hyposulfurous acid or a salt thereof.

10. (Original) The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to Claim 8,

wherein the reducing agent and/or the impurity derived from a reducing agent are/is ascorbic acid or a related compound thereof and/or an impurity derived from ascorbic acid or a related compound thereof.

11. (Original) The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to Claim 10,

wherein the impurity derived from ascorbic acid or a related compound thereof is oxalic acid.

12. (Currently Amended)The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 11~~Claim 4,

wherein the concentration of reduced coenzyme Q_{10} during washing is not higher than 30 w/w% as expressed in terms of the weight of reduced coenzyme Q_{10} relative to the weight of the solvent at the time of completion of the washing.

13. (Currently Amended)The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 12~~Claim 1,

wherein reduced coenzyme Q_{10} occurs as a form of crystals.

14. (Original) The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to Claim 13,

wherein the washing temperature is not higher than 50°C.

15. (Currently Amended)The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 14~~Claim 1,

wherein reduced coenzyme Q_{10} occurs as a form of oil and the washing temperature is not lower than the melting temperature of reduced coenzyme Q_{10}.

16. (Original) The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to Claim 15,

wherein the washing temperature is not lower than 40°C.

17. (Currently Amended)The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to ~~Claim 15 or 16~~Claim 15,

wherein crystals of reduced coenzyme Q_{10} is recovered by cooling the solution obtainable after impurity removal from the oil of reduced coenzyme Q_{10}.

18. (Currently Amended)The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to ~~Claim 15 or 16~~Claim 15,

wherein crystals of reduced coenzyme Q_{10} is recovered by contacting seed crystals to oil of reduced coenzyme Q_{10} obtainable after impurity removal from said oil.

19. (Currently Amended)The method of purifying reduced coenzyme Q_{10} according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 18~~Claim 1,

wherein reduced coenzyme Q_{10} is purified in a deoxygenated atmosphere.